

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 EUR-12 H-02 INR-07

IO-11 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01

SAJ-01 SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 DODE-00 NSC-05

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AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

USNMR SHAPE PRIORITY

USCINCEUR PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L MBFR VIENNA 0061

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJ: MBFR: EAST BLOC PUBLICIZES NEW PROPOSALS

REF: MBFR VIENNA 0057 (DTG 181840Z FEB 76)

1. AT POST-PLENARY PRESS BRIEFING, FEB 19, SOVIET DEL SPOKESMAN SERGEYEV ANNOUNCED TABLING OF "NEW AND IMPORTANT" EASTERN PROPOSAL BY KHLESTOV. HE SAID IT COMBINEDS IN A "CONSTRUCTIVE" MANNER PRINCIPLES AND IDEAS EMBODIED IN PREVIOUS WARSAW PACT PROPOSALS WITH "CERTAIN ELEMENTS" OF THE WESTERN POSITION. SERGEYEV SAID THAT THIS NEW EASTERN INITIATIVE IS AIMED AT SECURING PROGRESS AT THE TALKS. DESPITE REPEATED QUESTIONS, HE DID NOT DISCUSS ANY FURTHER DETAILS, NOTING ONLY THAT THE NEW PROPOSAL "CONTAINS A NUMBER OF SPECIFIC ASPECTS AND NUMERICAL DATA". APPARENTLY BASED ON SUBSEQUENT LEAKS, A NUMBER OF

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AUSTRIAN AND GERMAN PAPERS AS WELL AS RADIO AUSTRIA REPORTED

ON FEB 20 THAT THE NEW PROPOSAL APPARENTLY ACCEPTS THE WESTERN TWO-PHASE CONCEPT, WITH SOVIET AND AMERICAN TROOPS REDUCING FIRST.

2. WHEN WESTERN SPOKESMAN WAS ASKED ABOUT ASSESSMENT OF THE NEW PROPOSAL, HE GAVE THE FOLLOWING RESPONSE, IN LINE WITH PRESS GUIDANCE CONTAINED IN REFTEL: "AS YOU KNOW THE TALKS ARE CONFIDENTIAL AND I CAN GIVE YOU NO DETAILS ON THE EASTERN PROPOSAL. WE WILL OF COURSE STUDY IT. I CAN SAY, HOWEVER, THAT MUCH OF IT IS ALREADY FAMILIAR FROM THE ORIGINAL EASTERN PROPOSAL OF NOV 1973. ITS CENTRAL CONCEPT, AS IN THE ORIGINAL EASTERN PROPOSAL, CONTINUES TO BE BASED ON THE IDEA OF CONTRACTUALIZING EASTERN SUPERIORITY IN GROUND FORCE MANPOWER AND TANKS. FURTHERMORE, THERE IS STILL NO INDICATION THAT THE EAST IS PREPARED TO MAKE AVAILABLE NECESSARY DATA ON FORCE LEVELS IN THE AREA. THAT'S ALL I WOULD LIKE TO SAY ABOUT IT NOW."

3. SERGEYEV ALSO REPEATEDLY DENIGRATED ALLIED DEC 16 NUCLEAR PROPOSAL. WHEN WESTERN SPOKESMAN WAS ASKED ABOUT HIS VIEWS ON PROPOSAL AND ON THE EASTERN REACTION TO IT, HE SAID: "AS FAR AS THE WESTERN PROPOSAL OF DEC 16 IS CONCERNED, I WOULD SAY THAT THE OTHER SIDE HAS COMMENTED ON IT. THE CENTRAL REQUIREMENTS OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS ARE TO FIND AN ACCEPTABLE WAY OF DEALING WITH THE LARGE EASTERN SUPERIORITY IN GROUND FORCE MANPOWER AND TANKS, WHICH IS THE MAIN DESTABILIZING FACTOR IN THE AREA. OUR APPROACH OF DEC 16 PROVIDES AN ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION TO THIS PROBLEM. WE WILL CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR ITS ACCEPTANCE."

4. NO ADDITIONAL SUBSTANTIVE QUESTIONS ABOUT EASTERN PROPOSAL OR ALLIED DEC 16 NUCLEAR OFFER WERE PUT TO WESTERN SPOKESMAN. AD HOC GROUP DOES NOT INTEND TO MAKE FURTHER PUBLIC STATEMENTS AT THIS STAGE UNLESS REQUIRED TO BY EASTERN MISREPRESENTATIONS.RESOR

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